

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

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P R 240329Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3524

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8275

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, KS, JA

SUBJECT: ROK-JAPAN MINISTERIAL TALKS--TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS

SUMMARY: GOJ-ROKG WORKING LEVEL MEETINGS RE IMPLEMENTATION
OF MINISTERIAL MEETING AGREEMENTS TOOK PLACE IN SEOUL
OCTOBER 20-22, 1975. FOUR PROJECTS WERE PRESENTED
BY THE ROKG FOR DETAILED DISCUSSION LEADING TO DECISION
AT THE NEXT SUBSEQUENT WORKING LEVEL MEETING AT TOKYO
IN LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER. END SUMMARY.

1. GOJ-ROKG WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS MET AT SEOUL
OCTOBER 20-22, 1975 TO REVIEW AND DISCUSS FOUR KOREAN
AID PROJECT PROPOSALS TO CONSTITUTE THE NEXT PHASE
OF JAPANESE AID PARTICIPATION UNDER THE THIRD KOREAN
DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

2. THE ROKG HAD SUBMITTED PROPOSALS TO GOJ ONE
WEEK EARLIER AS FOLLOWS:(5

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-. IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT - \$70 MILLION

- B. TELECOMMUNICATIONS MODERNIZATION - \$35 MILLION
- C. DOUBLE TRACKING FOR SHINPOK RR - \$35 MILLION
- D. SEOUL COMMUTER RAIL AND SUBWAY CARS - \$30 MILLION

3. KOREAN OFFICIALS REPORTED THAT DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON PROVIDING DETAILS IN RESPONSE TO JAPANESE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS. ROKG HOPES THAT GOJ WILL BE READY TO APPROVE SOME OR ALL OF FOUR PROJECTS AT THE NEXT SCHEDULED SIMILAR DISCUSSIONS WHICH ARE TO TAKE PLACE AT TOKYO IN LATE NOVEMBER OR EARLY DECEMBER.

4. JAPANESE EMBASSY SOURCES DESCRIBED ROK PRESENTATIONS AS ADMIRABLY WELL PREPARED AND NOTED THAT GJ REPRESENTATIVES HAD RECEIVED COMPLETE TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND HAD PLEDGED A FINAL RESPONSE TO THIS DELAYED 1975 PACKAGE AT THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD NO EARLIER THAN ONE MONTH LATER AT TOKYO. EMBASSY OFFICIALS NOTED THAT THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REQUEST HAD BEEN ORGANIZED AS IF IT WERE FOR PRESENTATION TO USAID. INASMUCH AS JAPANESE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS DIFFER FROM THOSE OF THE US, JAPANESE OFFICIALS EXPECT THAT SOME ADJUSTMENT AND COMPROMISE IN FORMAT AND CONTENT WILL BE NECESSARY. THEY NOTED THAT INTERURBAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS EXPANSION AND 90 CARS FOR SEOUL METROPOLITAN SUBWAY AND COMMUTER LINES ARE COMMERCIALLY PROFITABLE, AND THEREFORE MIGHT NOT BE APPROPRIATED FOR INCLUSION IN A PUBLIC LOAN PROGRAM. THE SHINPOK RR DOUBLE TRACKING INVOLVES ONLY ABOUT \$10 MILLION IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE COSTS. JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICERS NOTED THAT LOCAL COSTS ARE "HARD FOR THE GOJ TO HANDLE". NEVERTHELESS, THERE APPEARS TO BE NO INSOLUBLE PROBLEMS FOR THE GOJ ON ANY OF THE PROJECTS PRESENTED TO IT BY THE ROKG.

5. BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT BOTH SIDES ARE REFRAINING FROM DISCUSSING PROJECT DETAILS WITH THE PRESS AT CONFIDENTIAL

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THIS STAGE, AND INDEED, NO REPORTS HAVE APPEARED THUS FAR IN THE MEDIA ON THE CONTENTS OF THIS SECOND WORKING LEVEL MEETING.
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